

to Divine Providence can be attributed that beneficent result.

The president, though well guarded by United States secret service detectives, was fully exposed to such an attack as occurred. He stood at the edge of the raised platform upon which stands the great pipe organ. Throng of people crowded in at the various entrances to gaze upon their executive, perchance to clasp his hand and then fight their way out in the good-natured mood. The president was in a cheerful mood and was enjoying to the full the hearty evidences of good will which everywhere met his gaze. Upon his right stood President Milburn of the exposition, chatting with the president and introducing to him persons of note who approached. Upon the president's left stood Mr. Cortelyou.

It was shortly after 4 p. m. when one of the throng which surrounded the presidential party, a medium-sized man of ordinary appearance and plainly dressed in black, approached as if to greet the president. Both Secretary Cortelyou and President Milburn noticed that the man's hand was swayed in a bizarre or haphazard way. Reports of bystanders differ as to which hand he worked his way amid the stream of people up to the edge of the dais until he was within two feet of the president. President McKinley smiled, bowed and extended his hand in that spirit of genial spirit the Americans well know, when suddenly the sharp crack of a revolver rang loud and clear above the hum of voices.

There was an instant of almost complete silence. The president stood stock still, a look of hesitancy, almost of bewilderment on his face. Then he recreated a step, while a pallor began to steal over his features. The multitude, only partially aware that something serious had happened, paused in surprise, while necks were turned and all eyes turned as one to the rostrum.

Then came commotion.

CAPTURE OF THE ASSASSIN.

Three Men Bore Him Down Before He Could Move.

With the leap of a tiger, three men threw themselves forward as with one impulse and sprang toward the wounded assassin. Two of them were United States secret service men who were in the outlook and whose duty it was to guard against just such a calamity as had here befallen the president and the nation. The third was a bystander, a negro who had only an instant previously grasped the hand of the president. As one man the trio buried themselves upon the president's assassin. In a twinkling he was borne to the ground, his weapon wrested from his grasp and strong arms pinned him down.

The multitude which thronged the edifice began to come to a realizing sense of the awfulness of the scene of which they had been unwilling witnesses. A murmur rose, spread and swelled to a hum of confusion, then grew to a babel of sounds and later to a pandemonium of noises.

The crowds that a moment before had stood mute and motionless as in bewildered ignorance of the enormity of the thing, now as with a single impulse surged forward, while a hoarse cry swelled up from a thousand throats and a thousand men charged forward to lay hands upon the perpetrator of the crime.

For a moment the confusion was terrible. The crowd surged forward, regardless of consequences. Some of the nearest the doors fled from the edifice to fear of a stampede, while hundreds of others from the outside struggled blindly forward in an effort to penetrate the building and solve the mystery.

Inside on the slightly raised dais was enacted within those few minutes a tragedy so dramatic in character, so thrilling in its intensity, that few who looked on will ever be able to give a succinct of what really did happen.

THE WOUNDS DISCOVERED.

The President Was the Calmest Man in the Building.

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In an instant Secretary Cortelyou and President Milburn were at his side. His waistcoat was hurriedly opened, the president meanwhile admonishing those about him to remain calm and telling them not to be alarmed.

"But you are wounded," said the secretary, "let me examine."

"No, I think not," answered the president. "I am not badly hurt, I assure you."

Nevertheless his outer garments were hastily loosened and when a trickling stream of crimson was seen to wind its way down his breast, spreading its stain over the white surface of the linen, their worst fears were confirmed.

A force of exposition guards were on the scene by this time and an effort was made to clear the building.

Spectators crowded down the stairways from the galleries and the crowds on the floor surged forward toward the rostrum, while, despite the strenuous efforts of police and guards, the throng mounted efforts to obtain admission.

The president's assistants in the meantime had been hustled to the rear of the building by exposition guards, where he was held while the building was cleared, and after he was turned over to Superintendent and the Buffalo police department, who took the prisoner to the police station and afterward to police headquarters.

OPERATION PERFORMED.

One Bullet Extracted but the Other Not Located.

As soon as the crowd in the Temple of Music had been dispersed sufficiently the president was removed to the automobile ambulance and taken to the exposition hospital, where an examination was made. The best medical skill was summoned and with it in a brief period a number of Buffalo's best known practitioners were at the patient's side.

The president retained the full exercise of his faculties until placed on the operating table and subjected to an anesthetic. Upon the first examination it was ascertained that one bullet had taken effect in the right breast just below the nipple, causing a comparatively harmless wound. The other took effect in the abdomen about four inches below the left nipple, four inches to the left of the navel and about on a level with it.

Upon arriving at the exposition hospital the second bullet was probed for. The walls of the abdomen were opened, but the bullet was not located. The incision was hastily closed and after a consultation it was decided to remove the president to the home of President Milburn.

This was done, the automobile ambulance being used for the purpose.

Arriving at the Milburn residence, the task of probing for the bullet, which had lodged in the abdomen, was begun by Dr. Russell Parke.

When it was decided to remove the president from the exposition hospital to the Milburn residence, the news was broken to Mrs. McKinley as gently as possible. She bore the shock remarkably well and displayed the utmost fortitude.

At 8:30 the representative of the Associated Press was admitted to the Milburn mansion, where Secretary Cortelyou gave him the official bulletin prepared by the physicians. Secretary Cortelyou said that a telegraph office would be established at once in the Milburn residence and bulletins giving the public the fullest information possible would be issued at short intervals.

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CRIMES FOR VENGEANCE.

But No Attempt Was Made to Wreak It by the Crowd in Attendance.

While the wounded president was being borne from the exposition hospital to the Milburn residence between rows of on-lookers with bated breath, a far different spectacle was being witnessed along the route of his assailant's journey from the scene of his crime to police headquarters.

This was made so quickly that the prisoner was landed safely within the wide corridors of the police station and the doors closed before any one was aware of his presence, the news of the attempted assassination having in the meantime been spread broadcast by the newspapers. Little while it spread from mouth to mouth. The police station and the doors closed before any one was aware of his presence, the news of the attempted assassination having in the meantime been spread broadcast by the newspapers.

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